

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-30 (Canceled).

31. (New) An apparatus comprising:

- a stapler having a staple pusher;

- a cartridge attached to a storing section of said stapler, said cartridge including:

- a take-out opening;

- a guide groove part for guiding a staple toward said take-out opening;

- a spring for urging said staple in said cartridge toward said take-out opening; and

- an insertion hole formed on an upper portion of said take-out opening to allow

said staple pusher to be inserted into said cartridge; and

- said staple being accommodated in said cartridge and having:

- a right shoulder part and a left shoulder part against which said staple pusher is to abut;

- leg parts extending substantially perpendicularly from said shoulder parts; and

- an arbitrarily-shaped pattern part located between said right shoulder part and said left shoulder part and being inclined with respect to said leg parts, a thickness of said pattern part being smaller than a width of each of said leg parts;

- wherein said guide groove part is shaped and arranged to guide lower ends of said leg parts toward said take-out opening.

32. (New) The apparatus of claim 31, wherein a width of each of said right shoulder part and said left shoulder part is less than the width of each of said leg parts.

33. (New) An apparatus comprising:

- a retaining part including a staple pusher;

a storing section for storing staples and having a take-out opening, said staples being arranged in said storing section so that lower ends of multiple adjacent staples are located on a substantially horizontal plane; and

a receiving base;

each of said staples having:

a right shoulder part and a left shoulder part against which said staple pusher is to abut;

leg parts extending substantially perpendicularly from said shoulder parts; and

an arbitrarily-shaped pattern part located between said right shoulder part and said left shoulder part and being inclined with respect to said leg parts, a thickness of said pattern part being smaller than a width of each of said leg parts;

wherein said receiving base is shaped and arranged to bend said leg parts after said leg parts are pierced through sheet materials when pushed by said staple pusher; and

wherein said take-out opening is sized to allow said pattern part of each of said staples to pass therethrough.

34. (New) The apparatus of claim 33, wherein the storing section includes:

a guide groove part for guiding lower ends of said leg parts of said staple toward said take-out opening; and

a spring for urging each of said staples in said storing section toward said take-out opening while each of said staples is guided by said guide groove part, said storing section being shaped to stop each of said staples at said take-out opening.

35. (New) The apparatus of claim 34, wherein said staple pusher includes:

a take-out section for guiding each of said staples to said take-out opening; and

a pressing section for pushing out each of said staples positioned at said take-out opening, said staple pusher being arranged so that, when said staple pusher is pushed down, one of said staples arranged in said storing section is guided to said take-out opening by said take-out section

and is positioned so that said leg parts are located at said take-out opening, and so that when said staple pusher is pushed further down, said pressing section abuts against said shoulder parts of said one of said staples.

36. (New) The apparatus of claim 34, wherein a width of each of said right shoulder part and said left shoulder part is less than the width of each of said leg parts.

37. (New) The apparatus of claim 34, wherein a corner portion of a lower end of said pattern part of each of said staples is chamfered.

38. (New) The apparatus of claim 34, wherein each of said right shoulder part and said left shoulder part has an axial twist, and said pattern part is inclined with respect to said leg parts.

39. (New) The apparatus of claim 33, wherein a width of each of said right shoulder part and said left shoulder part is less than the width of each of said leg parts.

40. (New) The apparatus of claim 33, wherein said staple pusher includes:

- a take-out section for guiding each of said staples to said take-out opening; and
- a pressing section for pushing out each of said staples positioned at said take-out opening, said staple pusher being arranged so that, when said staple pusher is pushed down, one of said staples arranged in said storing section is guided to said take-out opening by said take-out section and is positioned so that said leg parts are located at said take-out opening, and so that when said staple pusher is pushed further down, said pressing section abuts against said shoulder parts of said one of said staples.

41. (New) The apparatus of claim 40, wherein a width of each of said right shoulder part and said left shoulder part is less than the width of each of said leg parts.

42. (New) The apparatus of claim 40, wherein a corner portion of a lower end of said pattern part of each of said staples is chamfered.

43. (New) The apparatus of claim 40, wherein each of said right shoulder part and said left shoulder part has an axial twist, and said pattern part is inclined with respect to said leg parts.

44. (New) The apparatus of claim 33, wherein a width of each of said right shoulder part and said left shoulder part is less than the width of each of said leg parts.

45. (New) The apparatus of claim 44, wherein a corner portion of a lower end of said pattern part of each of said staples is chamfered.

46. (New) The apparatus of claim 44, wherein each of said right shoulder part and said left shoulder part has an axial twist, and said pattern part is inclined with respect to said leg parts.

47. (New) The apparatus of claim 33, wherein a corner portion of a lower end of said pattern part of each of said staples is chamfered.

48. (New) The apparatus of claim 47, wherein each of said right shoulder part and said left shoulder part has an axial twist, and said pattern part is inclined with respect to said leg parts.

49. (New) The apparatus of claim 33, wherein each of said right shoulder part and said left shoulder part has an axial twist, and said pattern part is inclined with respect to said leg parts.

50. (New) The apparatus of claim 49, wherein each of said right shoulder part and said left shoulder part has a cut-out portion to prevent adjacent staples from interfering with each other.

51. (New) A staple comprising:

a right shoulder part and a left shoulder part against which a staple pusher is to abut;
leg parts extending substantially perpendicularly from said shoulder parts; and
an arbitrarily-shaped pattern part located between said right shoulder part and said left
shoulder part and being inclined with respect to said leg parts, a thickness of said pattern part
being smaller than a width of each of said leg parts.

52. (New) The staple of claim 51, wherein a width of each of said right shoulder part and said
left shoulder part is less than the width of each of said leg parts.